

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165920
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652;N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, UR, US

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

REF: STATE 161306

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT THE JUNE 29 NOON
BRIEFING AT THE DEPARTMENT:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HODDING, IT IS JUST 26 YEARS SINCE A CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION FOUND THAT THE
USSR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF THOUSANDS OF
POLISH OFFICERS AT KATYN FOREST. THE HEAD OF THE VOICE
OF AMERICA IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
HAS NEVER MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE SOV-
IEN UNION FOR THIS TERRIBLE ATROCITY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 165920

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE NOW MAKING STATEMENTS
ABOUT ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
WORLD, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, IF
IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PUT IT ON THE RECORD TO
AVOID CONFUSION THAT WE DO HOLD THE SOVIETS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THAT HORRENDOUS ATROCITY?

A: REED, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS ABOUT TIME. YOU ARE CORRECT ON YOUR FACTS ON BOTH CASES. I MEAN, A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DID FIND THEM RESPONSIBLE AND NO ADMINISTRATION, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HAS, IN FACT, TAKEN A POSITION ON THE CASE.

Q: WELL, YOU ARE WILLING TO CONDEMN ATROCITIES IN VARIOUS PLACES, ALL SORTS OF THINGS. I MEAN, THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS REALLY MOMENTOUS. CAN'T WE CORRECT THE RECORD SO THAT THE KIND OF INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED AT THE VOICE--WHERE A REPORT OUT OF POLAND THAT MENTIONED THIS FACT, THAT IT WAS INDEED COMMITTED BY THE RUSSIANS-- WAS CENSORED OR EDITED OUT BY EDITORS AT THE VOICE OF AMERICA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY OFFICIAL DETERMINATION ON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

A: REED, I AM NOT SURE WHAT THE THRUST IS OF IT HERE. ARE YOU ASKING, ARE WE NOW CONSIDERING ISSUING A FORMAL FINDING ON THIS AS A GOVERNMENT POSITION?

Q: I AM ASKING IF YOU WOULD NOT ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE RECORD WAS MADE BY THE MADDEN COMMITTEE. THE REPORT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE UN AND IT WAS ASKED TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UN. APPARENTLY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 165920

ACCURACY OF THE FINDINGS OF THE MADDEN COMMITTEE.

A: AGAIN, I APPRECIATE ALL THE FACTS YOU ARE OFFERING. I DO NOT HAVE SUCH A STATEMENT TO OFFER.

Q: WILL YOU TAKE THE QUESTION AND SEE IF WE COULD GET A STATEMENT?

A: YES, I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR CRIMES, MASSACRES, BRIEFING MATERIALS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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